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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
GROUP ART UNIT 3627

In re Patent Application of:
James R. Edgar

Serial No.: 09/975,649

Filed: October 11, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Title: "LATCH APPARATUS AND
METHOD"

I, Debbie Newton, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

Debbie Newton
Signature
2-20-02
Date of Signature

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(b)

GROUP 3600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the references, which are listed on the attached Forms PTO-1449, some of which may be deemed relevant to the present application. No concession is made that these documents are prior art, and Applicant expressly reserves the right to antedate the documents as may be appropriate. Applicant requests that each of these documents be made of record in the above-referenced application. A copy of each reference listed is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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STATEMENTS OF RELEVANCE FOR NON-ENGLISH REFERENCES

FR 2746840 (YMOS France)

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This reference appears to disclose a motor vehicle door lock connected to inner and outer control members comprising at least one door opening element as well as at least one lock enabling/disabling element, is disclosed. The lock interacts with two connecting devices (15, 16) of which one is linked to the inner control members while the other is linked to the outer control members. Each connecting device comprises a connecting element movable between at least two positions, and each connecting element of the connecting devices (15, 16) is combined with a lever (12, 13) and a pivotable arm (11, 14). The two levers and the two pivotable arms are parallel to the same surface of the lock housing so that the lock pins (9, 14a) are all perpendicular to said surface.

DE 538812 (REIMER Germany)

This reference appears to disclose an electronic latch operable with the use of at least one battery-powered electro-magnet.

DE 685943 (Kuppersbusch)

This reference appears to disclose a door lock and handle assembly having a retractable bolt that can be locked in an extended position.

DE 355578 (OTTO Germany)

This reference appears to disclose a spring-loaded handle assembly.

IT 413637 (Torre Italy)

This reference appears to disclose a door lock and handle assembly.

DE 41 29 706 A1 (SWF Auto-Electric GmbH)

This reference appears to disclose a latch apparatus having a pawl that can be placed in locked and unlocked states corresponding to different pivotal states of a locking and unlocking member.

EP 0 694 665 A1 (YMOS France)

This reference appears to disclose a vehicle lock having an auxiliary battery for powering door locks in a vehicle in the event of power loss from a main battery.

DE 195 27 565 A1 (VDO Adolf Schindling AG)

This reference appears to disclose a device for releasing a door latch of a motor vehicle. The latch has a control switch which is responsive to a signal received when the vehicle is involved in an accident. Following an accident, the control switch sends an electrical signal to unlock the latch. A backup battery can be used for powering the control switch.

DE 195 47 727

This reference appears to disclose a latch assembly having a pawl releasably engagable with a ratchet and movable by a gear input and by a cable input to release the pawl from the ratchet to unlatch a striker. The latch assembly also appears to have sensors for detecting the position of the ratchet and the cable input.

DE 29701390

This reference appears to disclose a vehicle door latch having an electric motor that propels a drive component acting in cooperation with a slotted pawl to move the latch into a locked and unlocked condition.